

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-7 and 12-20 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 12, 16, and 17 being independent. Claims 8-11 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-7 and 12-17 have been amended, and Claims 18-20 have been added. Applicant submits that support for the amendments and the new claims can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-10 and 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,742,287 (Yokoi et al.). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Yokoi et al. considered in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,184 (Yamaguchi). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of storage means for storing and holding information regarding a final exciting phase of a stepping motor upon entering a software power off state in which consumption of electrical power of said recording apparatus is restricted, and control means for starting excitation of the stepping motor based on the information regarding the final exciting phase, read out from the storage means, instead of performing phase alignment of the stepping motor, when the recording apparatus restarts from the software power off state. Due to these features, phase alignment processing is eliminated and the level of noise and vibration can be reduced or limited when restarting a recording apparatus from a software off state.

Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features. Yokoi et al. discloses that two stepping motors are driven by a single driving circuit, and they are driven alternately. However, Applicant submits that Yokoi et al. does not disclose or suggest at least the feature of storage means for storing a final exciting phase of a stepping motor upon entering a software power off state, as recited in Claim 1. In that patent, the phase excitation data of the motor is maintained only while the power is turned on, not in a software power off state. In fact, Applicant submits that Yokoi et al. does not even disclose or suggest a software power off state (e.g., a “sleep” mode). Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

Applicant submits that independent Claims 2, 4, 5, 16, and 17 also recite a storage means for storing a final exciting phase upon entering a software power off state. Accordingly, Applicant submits that those claims are patentable over the cited art at least for reasons similar to Claim 1 discussed above.

The dependent claims recite additional features that further distinguish the claimed invention from the cited art. Further individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, DC office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian L. Klock', written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Brian L. Klock
Registration No.36,570

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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